



# Lessons Learned from Working with Communities

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## Lessons learned for improving The RAFT process

- The Implementation Team plays a key role in the success of The RAFT and resilience planning. Thus, the Implementation Team should be established early in the process.
- The RAFT Scorecard findings need to be presented in a way that assists in the development and prioritization of the most effective Resilience Action Checklist items. The Opportunity List was developed as one way to help localities identify priorities.
- The RAFT process emphasizes the long-term value of creating community-wide discussion and strengthening collaborations for resilience.
- When localities lack capacity to have staff participate in The RAFT workshops and Implementation Teams, the Planning District Commission can help identify community contacts to support resilience efforts and organize the community workshops.
- Localities value durable relationships with the universities and local partners including local nonprofits and community groups throughout the Implementation Phase and beyond.

## Lessons learned for equitable resilience of coastal communities

- The RAFT team brings academic objectivity to the assessment, prioritization, and implementation process.
- Terminology is extremely important and The RAFT team has focused on using the term social equity.
- The RAFT team recognizes that resilience to coastal hazards may take a back seat to more pressing economic and social resilience. The RAFT process frames coastal resilience in the context of broader community resilience and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.

For more information visit The RAFT website: [raft.ien.virginia.edu](http://raft.ien.virginia.edu)